

Message Text

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NODIS

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: DAVID MARTIN ARTICLE

REF: GENEVA 9058

1. BISHOP MUZOREWA IN CONVERSATION WITH A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION DISMISSED AS UNFOUNDED THE MARTIN ARTICLE.
2. WHEN THE BISHOP SAW RICHARD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, HE TALKED ABOUT HOW CONFIDENT HE FEELS THAT HE COULD RALLY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO HIS CAMP. HE WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSING A PUBLIC OATH OF ALLEGIANCE. IN THE BISHOP'S JUDGMENT, IF ZIPA FOLLOWERS WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE THEIR ALLEGIANCE, THERE WOULD BE A MARKED CHANGE IN THE CONFERENCE. MUGABE AND HIS FOLLOWERS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN A VERY WEAK POSITION.
3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE BISHOP CONTINUES TO BE CONFIDENT AND EBULLIENT.
4. ON AFTERNOON NOV. 15 HE ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE (TEXT SECRET

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BELOW) "CATEGORICALLY" REJECTING THE WEEKEND PRESS

ALLEGATIONS.

BEGIN TEXT

YOU MUST HAVE READ IN SOME BRITISH PAPERS OVER THE WEEKEND ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE ANC. I WISH TO CATEGORICALLY DISMISS CERTAIN MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE ANC. FIRST, THERE IS NO BASIS WHATEVER TO SPECULATE THAT I COULD POSSIBLY CONSIDER TO RECOMMEND TO MY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE IN ZIMBABWE THAT THE ANC SHOULD DISSOLVE ITSELF AND JOIN ANOTHER ORGANISATION.

IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ANC IS A GRASS-ROOT ORGANISATION, MADE OF PERSONS WHO, ON THE ONE HAND NEVER BELONGED TO ANY OF THE FORMER ORGANISATIONS, AND THOSE ON THE OTHER HAND WHO WANTED TOTAL POLITICAL UNITY IN ZIMBABWE.

FOR SEVERAL WEEKS NOW THE ANC CONTACT COMMITTEE HEADED BY MR. MOTON MALIANGA, THE ORGANISATION'S NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS FROM ZIMBABWE. ONE SUCH GROUP IS THAT PART OF ZANU LED BY MR. ROBERT MUGABE. THE MUGABE SIDE FIRST SUGGESTED TO OUR COMMITTEE THE POSSIBILITY OF A TOTAL POLITICAL MERGER WITH THE ANC. IT WAS ONLY AT THE LAST MEETING, A FEW DAYS AGO, WHEN THE MUGABE GROUP LUDICROUSLY SUGGESTED THAT THE ANC SHOULD DISSOLVE AND JOIN ZANU. CONSEQUENTLY I CALLED OFF ANY FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE MUGABE GROUP ON THIS ISSUE.

I WILL NOT RECOMMEND TO MY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ANYTHING ALONG OR NEAR THE LINES MUGABE IS SUGGESTING. NATURALLY, I WILL MAKE A REPORT AND BRIEF MY EXECUTIVE ABOUT SO MANY SUGGESTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF COOPERATION AND UNITY IN ZIMBABWE. I HAVE BEEN QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT: THE CONTEXT BEING MY PERSONAL REACTION TO A PURELY HYPOTHETICAL DEVELOPMENT, THAT IS, THE VERY UNLIKELY EVENT OF MY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE GIVING FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION TO MUGABE'S LUDICROUS SUGGESTION THAT THE ANC SHOULD DISSOLVE.

SOON AFTER MY STATEMENT IN CONFERENCE CHAMBER DURING WHICH
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I POINTED OUT THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING AND ARE VICTIMS OF ATROCITIES AT THE HANDS OF THE SMITH REGIME, RHODESIA REPRESENTATIVES LED BY MR. MARK PARTRIDGE CAME TO COMPLAIN TO ME. I LISTENED TO THESE GENTLEMEN IN THE PRESENCE OF A NUMBER OF MY COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS. I AGAIN POINTED OUT THAT OUR PEOPLE WERE DISAPPEARING IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR EXAMPLE MORE RECENTLY, THE ANC NATIONAL ORGANISING SECRETARY THE LATE MR. W. MAKUWERERE. I REJECTED

THE SMITH REGIME'S CLAIMS THAT GUERRILLAS ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THESE ATROCITIES. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO THE
PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS.

FINALLY, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FIRM
ASSURANCES TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THAT THE ANC
CONTINUES TO BE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A STABLE CUS-
TODIAN OF THEIR TRUE INTERESTS. THE ANC REMAINS OPEN TO
WORK COOPERATIVELY OR UNITE WITH ANY WHO DESIRES GENUINE
UNITE IN ZIMBABWE.

END TEXT.ABRAMS

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